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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/149,424

09/08/98

GAUTIER

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1948-4541

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EXAMINER

TAMAIL K

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2834

DATE MAILED:

06/21/00

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/149,424

Applicant(s)

Gautier

Examiner

Karl Tamai

Group Art Unit

2834



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Mar 22, 1999

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1035 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claim

☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the applicat

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☒ The drawing(s) filed on Mar 22, 1999 is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☒ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

☒ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 7

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

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DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the alternator including a support having a hole, a stator disposed on one side of the support must be shown or the features canceled from the claims. No new matter should be entered.

Specification

2. The specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification. While applicant may be his or her own lexicographer, a term in the specification should not be given a meaning repugnant to the usual meaning of that term. The term "bearing" in the specification is used by the claim to mean "motor frame or endshield" while the accepted meaning in the dynamo electric machine art is "a device which reduces friction between fixed and moving machine parts".

Claim Objections

3. Claim 8 objected to because of the following informalities: spelling of "including".
Appropriate correction is required.

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claim 5-7 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 5, 6, 7, and 17 are vague and indefinite because it is unclear whether the applicant is attempting to claim an assembly of parts or a plinth. The independent claim 1 defines the invention as a plinth, while dependent claims 5-7 define the invention as an assembly and claim 17 defines an alternator. The examiner suggests that all dependent claims having a preamble consistent(the same as) the parent independent claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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7. Claims 1, 2, 3, 5-13, 15, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mori et al.(Mori)(US 5,828,564) and Gautier(US 5,982,062) and Abadia et al.(Abadia)(US 5,883,450). Mori teaches an alternator having a diode with a casing 231b mounted on a plinth 231d inherently defining a vertical axis. The plinth includes a plug portion(side surface 231d) which is knurled to be press fit into a blind aperture304a and an abutment portion which projects radially inward from the plug portion to form an upper engagement face. Mori inherently shows the diode secured to the plinth, but does not teach the diode casing welded to the plinth or the diode positioned within a cavity. Mori does not teach the diode mounted on the opposite side of the plinth from the stator. Gautier teaches the diode ND2 soldered to the plinth 2 and positioned within a cavity at 14b. Gautier does not teach the diode welded to the plinth. Abadia teaches the equivalence of soldering and welding the diode to a support(col. 4, line 33). Abadia teaches the plinth mounted on the end frame of an alternator on the opposite side of the plinth from the stator. It would have been obvious to a person skilled in the art at the time of the invention to construct the diode support of Mori with the diode welded to the plinth because Gautier teaches that the diodes are fixed within a cavity by soldering, where it is know that soldering provides both a mechanical and electrical connection, and with the diode specifically fixed by welding because Abadia teaches the equivalence of soldering and welding, where it is within the ordinary skill in the art to chose between known equivalents, and with the plinth mounted on the outside end frame of an alternator because Abadia teaches the end frame is a feasible mounting structure for the rectifier diodes.

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8. Claims 4, 14, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mori, Gautier, and Abadia in further view of Namba et al.(Namba)(US 4,472,649). Mori, Yoshino, and Abadia teach every aspect of the invention, except a lower engagement face oriented towards the plug portion defining a flat lower engagement zone at a right angle to the axis, and the plug and abutment portions being cylindrical disks with the plug portion having a smaller radius than the abutment portion. Namba (figure 11) shows the plinth 68 with fixed diodes 70a on an upper surface and a lower surface engaging the edge of the hole 76 for the plinth. The drawings suggest that the holes 76 (see figure 5) is cylindrical, such that the plug portion is a cylindrical disk and the abutment portion is a cylindrical disk with a larger radius than the hole 76 (see figure 11). It would have been obvious to a person skilled in the art at the time of the invention to construct the diode support of Mori, Yoshino, and Abadia with the plinth having the plug and abutment portions being cylindrical disks with the plug portion having a smaller radius than the abutment portion because Namba shows the flat lower engagement surface on the plinth is known to provide engagement with the mounting hole.

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Yoshino et al. (US 4,546,409) teaches a diode 3 soldered to a plinth 4 and inserted into a recess on a heat sink.

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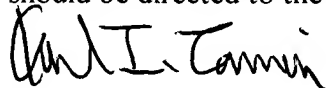
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10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Karl I.E. Tamai whose telephone number is (703) 305-7066. The examiner can be normally contacted on Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Nestor Ramirez, can be reached at (703)308-1371. The facsimile number for the Group is (703)305-3432.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.



Karl I Tamai
PATENT EXAMINER
June 16, 2000